

Applicant : F. Venema
Serial No. : Unknown
Filed : Herewith
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Amendment

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following paragraph on page 1, immediately after the title.

--This application claims priority to PCT/EP00/07736, filed August 9, 2000, which claims priority to European Patent Application 99202649.2, filed August 16, 1999.--

Please amend claims 1-3, 16 and 17 to read as follows.

1. (Amended) A method for removing non-loaded amino groups which form part of the silanating agent used to activate a metal oxide surface during the preparation of metal oxide supports loaded with biomolecules, comprising the steps of:

- (a) activating the surface of the support by means of a silanating agent comprising an amine group;
- (b) loading the support by attaching biomolecules to the activated surface; and
- (c) treating said loaded support with an acidic solution.

2. (Amended) A method for removing non-loaded amino groups which form part of the silanating agent used to activate a metal oxide surface during the preparation of metal oxide supports loaded with biomolecules, comprising the steps of:

- (a) activating the surface of the support by means of a silanating agent comprising an amine group;
- (b) loading the support by attaching biomolecules to the activated surface; and
- (c) treating said loaded support with a basic or neutral solution.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the solution is of pH 2 to 6.